



Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center Monthly IED Activity Report



DOI: 30 June 2019

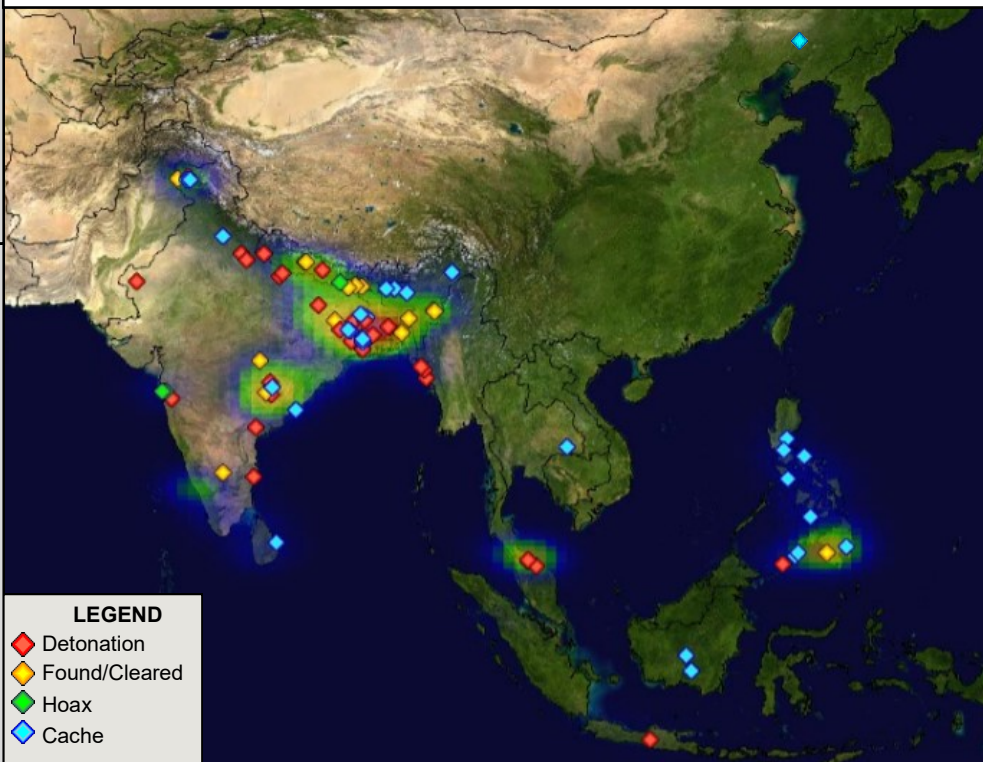
APCFC Assessment

In June, IED activity in the Indo-Pacific decreased by 26% from last month (94 events versus 122 events). The decline in the number of IED events in India following the conclusion of national elections and the associated violence explains this decrease. The 28 JUN PBIED attack in the Philippines is the third suicide attack in the country in the past 11 months. This attack is significant, as this was the first instance of a Filipino national conducting a suicide attack.

Month at a Glance — June

The Indo-Pacific region experienced 94 IED events in June: 68 events in South Asia, 25 events in South East Asia, and one event in Northeast Asia. These events consisted of 363 devices. In total, there were 39 IED detonation events, 21 IED found and cleared events, three IED hoax events, and 31 IED cache events. There were 71 casualties in June: 13 civilians killed, 33 civilians wounded, five host nation forces killed, and 20 host nation forces wounded.

There were 94 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in June 2019



LEGEND

- ◆ Detonation
- ◆ Found/Cleared
- ◆ Hoax
- ◆ Cache

Icons depict events for June 2019; heat map depicts event density from June 2018 - June 2019

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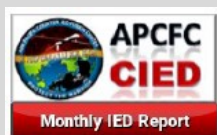
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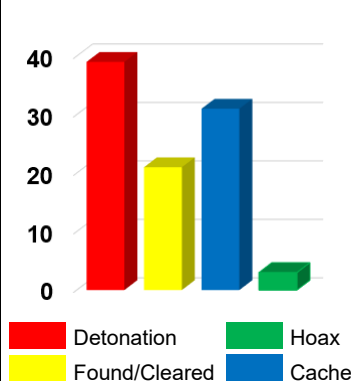
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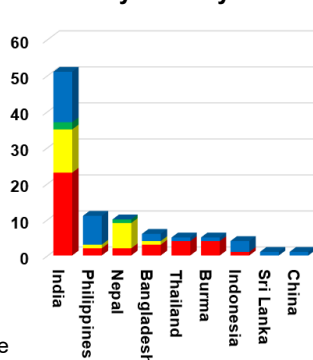


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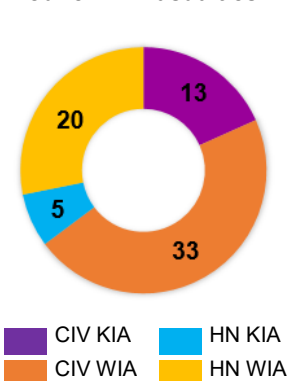
June IED events



June IED events by country

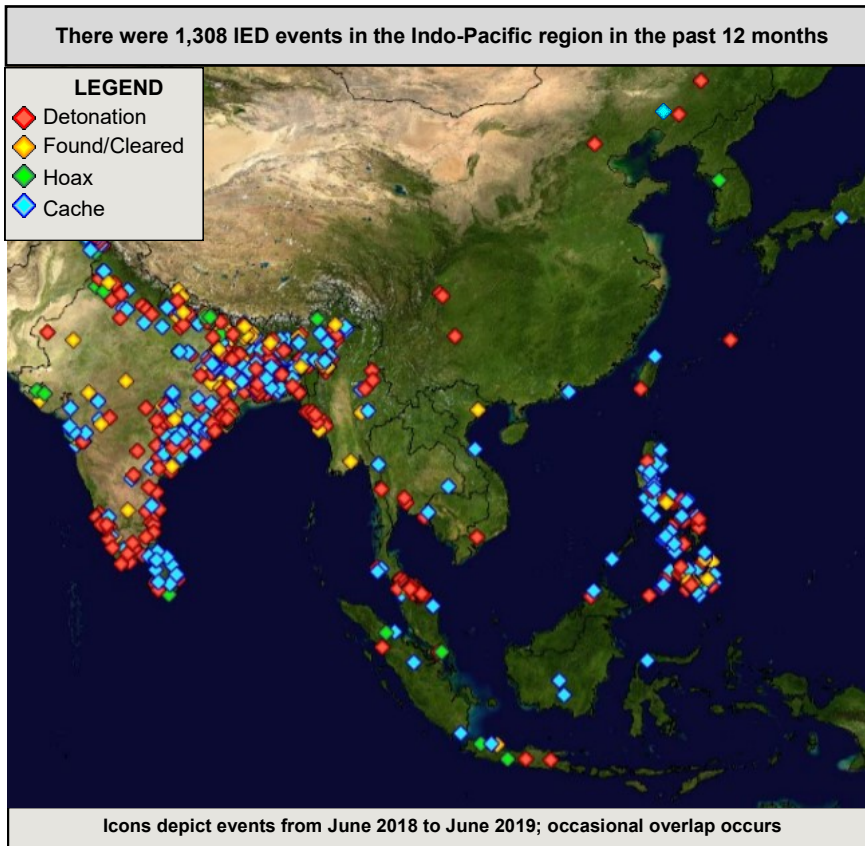


June IED Casualties



This document is intended for those personnel performing military, intelligence, law enforcement, or security duties in support of C-IED operations.

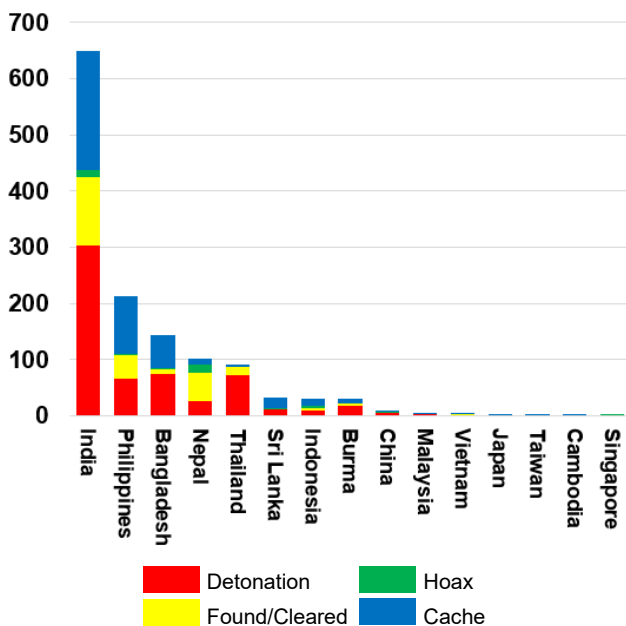
INDO-PACIFIC IED Events - Past 12 Months



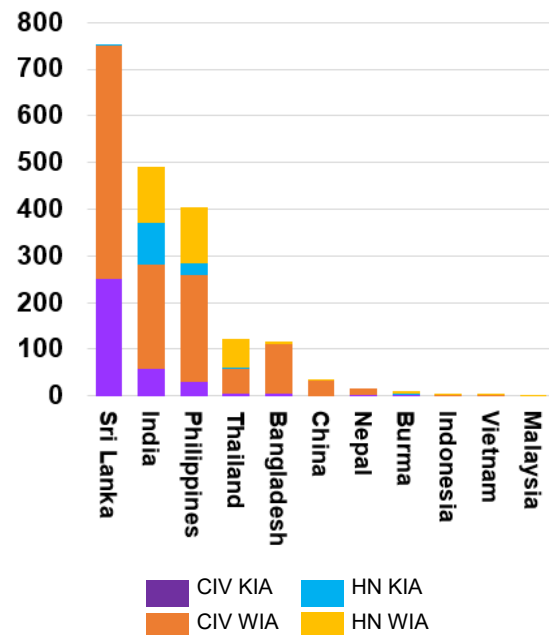
APCFC Assessment

Over the past year 1,308 IED events occurred in the Indo-Pacific region and a total of 1,958 casualties resulted from those events. There were 587 IED detonations, 246 IED found and cleared events, 40 IED hoax events, and 435 IED cache events. Throughout the year there were 350 civilians killed, 1,168 civilians wounded, 122 host nation forces killed, and 318 host nation forces wounded. On a typical year India usually has the highest amount of IED events and casualties. The 28 JUN IED detonation event at the Philippine Army base in Jolo Island contributed to a spike in casualties in June.

Past Year IED events by Country



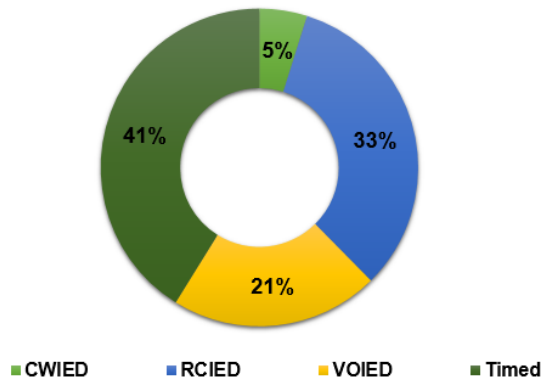
Past Year Casualties by Country



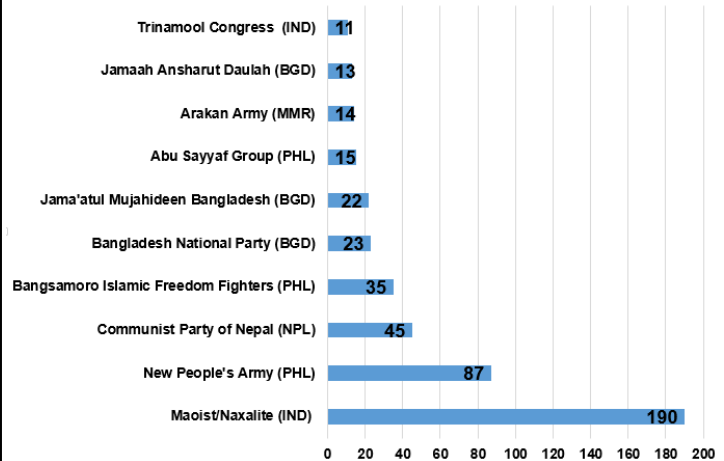
NOTE: The APCFC Monthly IED report includes both event counts (detonation, found/cleared, hoax, and cache) and device counts. It is important to note that a singular IED event may include multiple devices. For instance, a single IED cache event may contain several devices.

IED Activity - Past 12 Months

Switch Type



Group Affiliation



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics are presumed to be approximations. Graphics represent known switch type and group affiliation.

Incident Highlight: Jolo Base Bombings

On 28 JUN, two person-borne IEDs detonated at the Philippine Army's 1st Brigade Combat Team Headquarters located in Jolo Island, killing eight and wounding approximately 22. A suspected Filipino male detonated the first PBIED device at the entrance to the military installation at 12:00pm local time. Two soldiers guarding the base noticed the first male acting suspiciously and attempted to inspect his bag when the first detonation ensued. Immediately following, the second male ran past the security gate, yelled "Allah Akbar," and initiated the second detonation. Philippine security forces identified Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) militants as the likely perpetrators and assess that the bombers sought to target military personnel. The motivations for this attack could be in retribution for the increase in counter-terrorism operations executed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Following the attack, President Duterte publicly announced his desire for the new Western Mindanao Command to "crush the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu by 31 December," which coincides with the end of martial law in the southern Philippines.



This event is the third suicide attack in the southern Philippines in the past 11 months. Previous events included the 27 JAN 2019 Jolo Cathedral bombing and the 31 JUL 2018 Lamitan VBIED. This attack occurred on the same day that Major General Cirilito Sobejana assumed his position as the new Western Mindanao Command Chief. It is unclear at this time whether the individuals detonated the bombs or if another individual detonated them remotely. Philippine authorities' testing of the DNA of the Jolo bombers' remains confirmed that one of the bombers was Filipino; Norman Lasuca, who according to his relatives, went missing in 2014 and likely joined ASG (the other bomber is still unidentified). This is the first known suicide bombing perpetrated by a Filipino person. This is symbolic and it demonstrates a shift in historical and cultural trends of Philippine militants disregarding suicide attacks as a means for violence. This is particularly concerning because it indicates that ISIS extremist ideology has taken deeper root among militant organizations in the Philippines than previously believed.

Sources: PNA (6/28/19) MB (7/1/19) Washington Post (6/28/19) Phil Star (7/1/19)

Blast Fishing: A Proliferation Risk in Southeast Asia

Fishermen have been using explosives to catch fish since the late 19th century. Despite prohibitions against this practice due to the associated long-term environmental and economic damages, this illegal fishing technique offers fishermen an efficient and cost-effective method of obtaining their catch. The practice is widespread in coastal Africa and throughout Southeast Asia, particularly in the Philippines. An unintended consequence of blast fishing is that the popularity of the practice creates a demand for explosives. An explosives black market has emerged to address this demand, but also provides a consistent supply of IED material for VEOs in Southeast Asia.

The Basics of “Fish Bombs”

Initially, blast fishing consisted of actual dynamite, which explains why the practice is sometimes referred to as “dynamite fishing.” Following World War 2, fishermen shifted to repurposing the easily accessible and ample supply of explosive remnants of war. Today, most blast fishers construct their own devices that consists of a 3:1 mixture of agricultural fertilizer (usually ammonium nitrate) and fuel oil (kerosene or diesel). This chemical mixture is a common homemade explosive (HME) and is sometimes referred to as ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO). A 12 or 16-ounce glass or plastic bottle typically serves as the container (although rare, fishermen may use larger, 5-gallon containers to hold more explosives, which will create a larger concussive shockwave). Fishermen add stones or sand to make the bottles sink faster, and insert a waterproof fuse through a plastic cap and the top of the bottle. The IED typically detonates in approximately five seconds, but will vary depending on the length of the fuse and the desired depth of the explosion. When the IED detonates, shockwaves kill or stun fish, causing them to float to the surface or to sink to the bottom for easier collection.

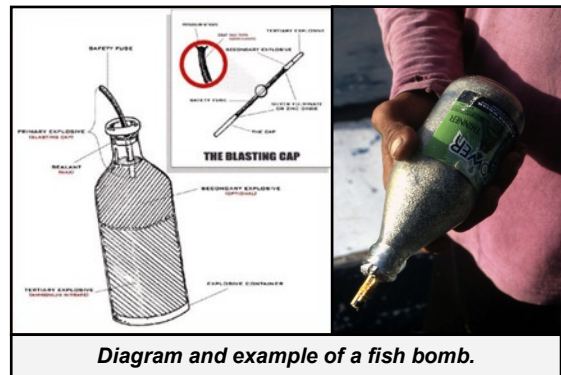


Diagram and example of a fish bomb.

Benefits and Consequences of Blast Fishing: A Tragedy of the Commons

Blast fishing is a practice that occurs throughout Southeast Asia. Its popularity is based on the ease of access to the HME precursors, cost effectiveness, and weak maritime enforcement. A fish bomb costs \$1-2 to build and is on average four times more efficient than non-destructive fishing methods.

Although comprehensive statistics are difficult to find, a compilation of various studies and related metrics serve to illuminate the problem. For instance, a study conducted by WWF-Malaysia over a period of four months, between JUN to SEP 2018, recorded a total of 263 fish bombings off the coast of a single district (Semporna, Sabah). A recent statistic from the Philippines' fisheries bureau estimates that there are 10,000 blast fishing events every day.

The practice leads to a classic tragedy of the commons situation as it destroys the surrounding habitat for coral reefs and marine life. In the Indo-Pacific, blast fishing is perhaps the most significant contributor to coral reef degradation. A typical 12-ounce fish bomb can leave a crater of rubble 30 meters in diameter. Damaged coral reefs destroy marine habitats and require years for recovery, which in turn declines the quantity of fish. Economic models show that the continued practice of blast fishing in an area for a period of 20 years, reduces the fisherman's income to one-fifth of what would have been available by using sustainable methods. An example of how fishermen acting in their own self-interest can lead to a worse outcome for everyone is readily apparent in the Philippines. In 1970, the average daily catch was 45 pounds. By 2000, that had dropped to 4.5 pounds due to destructive fishing practices.

Blast fishing also has severe human impacts, as blast fishers expose themselves to serious injury and possible death by risking a premature detonation. Divers in vicinity of blast fishing activities are at risk as well; some have reportedly gone temporarily, or in a few cases, permanently deaf from underwater blasts. Recently in Malaysia, two Chinese tourists and a Malaysian divemaster died while diving in an area where fish bombs detonated.



Damage from blast fishing.

Blast Fishing: A Proliferation Risk in Southeast Asia

The Proliferation Risk

The popularity of blast fishing has created a black market for ammonium nitrate. Shortly after the 2002 Bali Bombings, both the Philippines and Indonesia heavily restricted the use of ammonium nitrate for its ease of use as an HME. However, because of the popularity of blast fishing, ammonium nitrate remains moderately accessible in those countries, especially in coastal areas. Enterprising criminals satisfy the demand for the HME precursors through the establishment of elaborate smuggling rings. To illustrate the size and scale of this black market, in a five-month period in 2016, Indonesia intercepted over 160 tons of ammonium nitrate at sea. Upon interrogation, smugglers often confess that they traffic ammonium nitrate to resell to blast fishers. Often, these shipments originate from Malaysia, where access to ammonium nitrate is still largely unrestricted.



SEP 2016: "Indonesian authorities seized 30 tons of ammonium nitrate from a Malaysian ship that was on its way to Bali to sell to blast fishers."

In addition to ammonium nitrate, blast fishers have also created a black market for foreign-made commercial grade blasting caps. A 2018 report from Indonesian police revealed that blast fishers were smuggling commercial grade blasting caps from India. Although these commercial blasting caps were more expensive than the improvised ones that most blast fishers build and employ, users still sought these devices as they detonate more completely and thus generate a larger and more dispersed blast. Police reported that from 2016 – 2018, within a single Indonesian province (South Sulawesi), the police recovered 3,508 foreign-made detonators from fishermen and smugglers.



FEB 2019: Philippine maritime police seized 500 kilograms of AN from a vessel they pursued near Tongkil, Sulu. The ammonium nitrate bags were branded HU-Chems, a South Korean chemical manufacturing business that operates a processing plant in Sarawak, Malaysia."

Although the potential threat of proliferation is substantial throughout Southeast Asia, it is especially dangerous in the Philippines where there is a geographical overlap between highly concentrated fishing activities and violent extremist organizations. The Sulu Sea, is home some of the Philippines largest fishing grounds and provides more than 60% of the nation's commercial catch. While many fishermen are not blast fishing, the sheer size of the fishing economy and the advantages associated to blast fishing enables a thriving black market for explosives in the area. Over the past several years, police have seized several large ammonium nitrate caches from those looking to sell to fishermen in Zamboanga City. This region of the Philippines also happens to overlap with the Abu Sayyaf Group's (ASG) area of operations. It is reasonable to assume that the ASG exploits the existence of this explosives black market, particularly as the group's most commonly used main charge for IEDs is ammonium nitrate.

Most of Southeast Asia has been struggling with the blast fishing problem since the end of World War 2. The destructive practice has taken its toll on the region's economy by damaging fishing stocks, the tourism industry, and the environment. How-

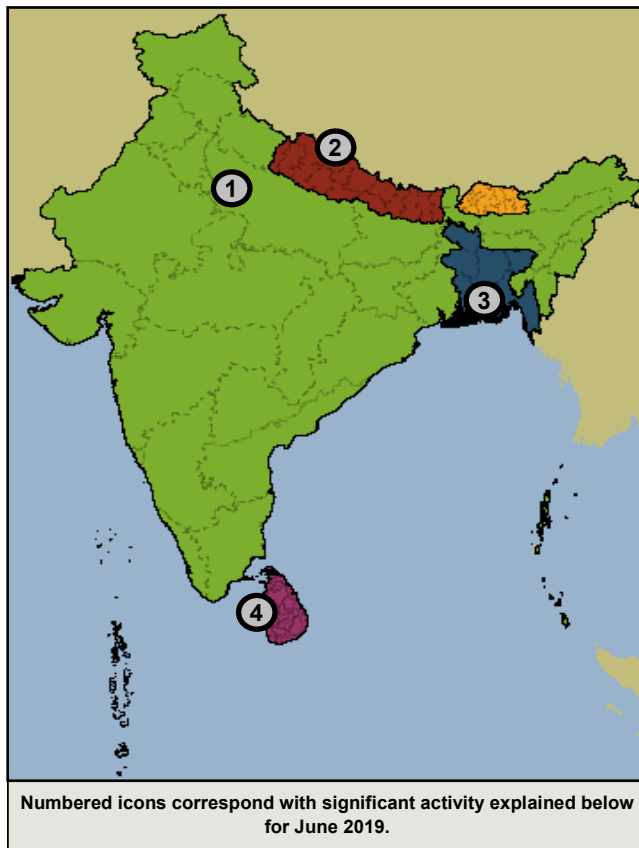
ever, the threat of explosives proliferation promoted by this practice is a significant concern that often goes undiscussed and that should motivate Southeast Asia to take an aggressive posture against this practice. This is more than a theoretical concern. Some of the highest casualty producing events in Southeast Asia perpetrated by VEOs, such as the 2017 Big-C Supermarket VBIED in Thailand (80 wounded) and the 2019 Jolo Cathedral bombings (20 killed and 120 wounded), used ammonium nitrate explosives. Unfortunately, the proliferation risks are likely to continue, at least in the near term. Countries have taken steps to combat blast fishing, but the strong economic incentive for blast fishers, coupled with the ready access to explosive material to continue the practice, are significant problems that require innovative and collaborative solutions.

Sources: World Fish Center (1998) Business Insider (7/8/19) Oceana (7/8/16) Politiko Mindanao (8/12/18) Malay Mail (1/1/17) Asia Foundation (3/28/18) Reef Check (12/16/11) Save Our Seas (7/23/15) Liputan (9/20/18) IEEE Underwater Technology Conference Paper (2017)

Person of Interest / VEO of Interest

POI: Waqar Ahmad	
ALIAS: Unknown POB: Pakistan AGE: 30-36 ROLE: Suicide bomber AFFILIATION: Dawlah Islamiyah; Abu Sayyaf Group; Possibly Taliban AREA OF OPERATIONS: Pakistan, Philippines STATUS: Awaiting deportation from the Philippines to Pakistan	
<p>Waqar Ahmad is a suspected Pakistani suicide bomber who police arrested in Zamboanga City, Philippines in June 2019 for his linkages to terrorism and for his involvement in plotting a bombing in Southern Basilan. Ahmad is currently awaiting deportation to Pakistan and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) will place him on a "blacklist," which will prevent him from re-entering the Philippines.</p> <p>In 2009, the Taliban radicalized an individual with the same name, country of origin, and similar age in Waziristan, Pakistan. In 2011, police arrested the individual in Waziristan while training alongside the Taliban to become a suicide bomber. During his arrest, he possessed 20kg of explosives, 20ft of detonation cord, two hand grenades, two pistols, 200 bullets, and "bombing equipment." He may have also received training in kidnapping for ransom and robbery.</p> <p>Ahmad arrived in the Philippines on 19 April 2019 and worked at his Pakistani uncle's appliance store in southern Zamboanga City. On 18 JUN, police arrested Ahmad following several days of "intensive surveillance" by the Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Intelligence Unit 9 and the BI's Mindanao Intelligence Task Group. Authorities plan to deport Ahmad because of his admitted links to the Philippine terror group, ISIS-Philippines, as well as "international intelligence reports" indicating that he was set to meet with Abu Sayyaf Group leadership to plan and execute suicide bombings in Basilan. Ahmad's presence in the Philippines illustrates that foreign fighters (particularly those proficient in IED attack operations) continue to flow into the country.</p>	
Sources: BenarNews (6/19/19), The Express Tribune (6/13/11), Philippine News Agency (6/19/19), PhilStar (6/20/19), Philippine Life Style (6/19/19)	
VEO: Lebanese Hizballah	
ALIAS: Party of God FOUNDED: 1982 LEADER: Hassan Nasrallah AREA: Initially, Lebanon; currently in Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America, North Africa, and the Indo-Pacific	
<p>Following the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and the 1982 Israeli occupation of Lebanon, various Lebanese Shia militant groups aggregated into a unified organization known as Hizballah. The establishment of Hizballah stemmed from the Iranian Republican Guard Corps (IRGC) Qods Force's eagerness to export its Shia Islamic revolution in defense of oppressed Shia populations throughout the Middle East and more practically, as the group sought to create a proxy to act on its behalf against Israel. Overtime, Hizballah evolved into a paramilitary Lebanese political party, social service provider, pan-Shia social movement, and continues to act as an Iranian proxy group. Hizballah does not confine its operations to Middle East, as the organization has extended its global operational footprint into the Indo-Pacific since at least the 1990s.</p> <p>While Hizballah is less known for activities in Southeast Asia, the group leverages distinct Shia communities (representing 1 – 2 percent of Southeast Asia's Muslims) to recruit and raise funds through both legitimate charities and criminal activity. Authorities have arrested Hizballah operatives in Thailand, India, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines. In 1994, security forces interdicted a joint operation between IRGC Qods Force and Hizballah, in which the groups used a VBIED to target the Israeli Embassy in Thailand. In 1998, Singaporean authorities arrested Hizballah operatives for surveying U.S. and Israeli ships in the Singapore Strait in preparation for a possible USS Cole-style attack. In 2012, as tensions escalated between Israel and Iran, police arrested a Hizballah operative, Hussein Atris, for stockpiling nearly 9,000 pounds of homemade explosives (HME) in a Bangkok building. This HME cache was perhaps the prelude to the 2012 simultaneous IED attacks against Israeli diplomatic targets in Bangkok and Delhi. Preparations for these attacks began in April 2011, when approximately twelve Qods Force operatives jointly coordinated the operation with Hizballah.</p> <p>Hizballah operations in the Indo-Pacific demonstrate that emerging tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States could result in activities undertaken by Iran in regions of the world beyond the Middle East. It is clear that this Iranian proxy group, with IRGC support and guidance, is capable of devising and executing plots in the Indo-Pacific, which could target U.S. and Israeli interests and foment the rise of Shia activism and militancy within this region.</p>	
Sources: BBC (2019); Reuters (2013); Al Jazeera (2016); ODNI NCTC (2019); Stratfor (2012); The Washington Institute (2013)	

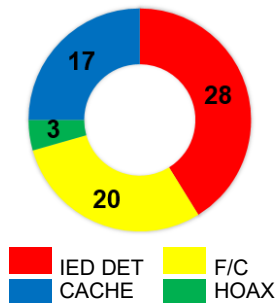
South Asia Highlights



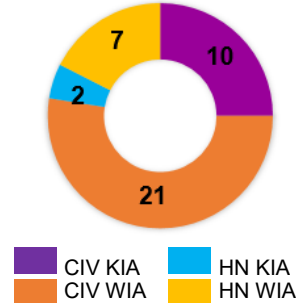
South Asia June Executive Summary

IED activity decreased by 29% from the previous month (68 events versus 96 events), and IED-related casualties dropped by 42% (40 casualties versus 69 casualties). In India, IED activity decreased by 18% (51 events versus 62 events), and IED-related casualty rates decreased by 37% (37 casualties versus 59 casualties). A 17 JUN VBIED attack, resulting in 10 casualties, demonstrated the continued trend of VBIED use by VEOs in Jammu Kashmir. Elsewhere in South Asia, IED activity in Nepal decreased from last month (10 events versus 15 events), and there were no reported IED-related casualties. In Bangladesh, IED activity remained low (six events), and there were a total of three IED-related casualties. There was one reported event in Sri Lanka, a 27 JUN IED cache recovery in Batticaloa district, linked to the National Thowheed Jamaat terrorist group.

South Asia IED Events
June 2019



South Asia Casualties
June 2019



South Asia June Significant Activity

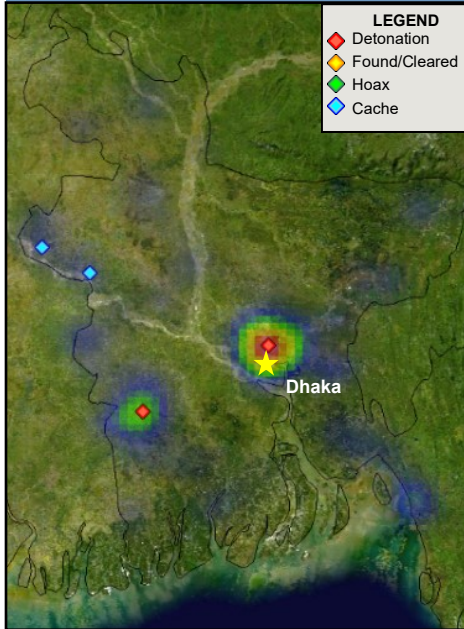
- ① **India:** This month, Indian intelligence agencies revealed that the Pakistan based terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), is establishing bases in Uttar Pradesh's Faizabad and Gorakhpur regions (on the border with Nepal). The bases will reportedly operate as staging and/or training grounds for near-term attacks in India. LeT operative, Muhammad Umar Mandi, believed to be based in Nepal, is leading the operation. Madni is targeting Muslim youth to recruit into LeT. It seems likely that LeT will send its recruits to Pakistan for advanced training and radicalization. According to Indian Intelligence officials, Mandi uses a Nepal-based NGO, "Nepal Education and Welfare Society," as a front to obtain funding from foreign countries. Indian officials are also attempting to determine the number and identities of persons already recruited. **Zeenews (06/13/19)**
- ② **Nepal:** On 25 JUN, a significant number of incidents occurred across 34 districts during the nationwide strike called by the Netra Bikram Chand led Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist. According to reporting, authorities uncovered 23 suspicious objects in different parts of the country, with nine being hoax bombs. In addition, security forces discovered pressure cooker IEDs in five locations, sutali IEDs in four locations, gas cylinder IEDs in two locations, and an unspecified IED in another location. It remains unclear what the specific locations are for these incidents. **Khabarhub (6/25/2019)**
- ③ **Bangladesh:** In June, Indian authorities arrested Bangladeshi extremists attempting to seek refuge and to hide in India from Bangladesh law enforcement. The Kolkata Police Special Task Force arrested three Bangladeshi members of Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and one Indian citizen JMB member who was assisting the group. Authorities stated that the JMB operatives were recruiting and fundraising for ISIS. The Bangladeshi government banned JMB in 2005 and India recently banned the extremist group in May 2019. **Outlook (6/25/19)**
- ④ **Sri Lanka:** On 27 JUN, the interrogation of a National Thowheed Jamaath (NTJ) leader, Hayathu Mohammadu Ahamed Milhan (a close associate of Zahran Hashim), who was recently extradited from Saudi Arabia, led authorities to a large explosive cache at Ollikulam, Kattankudy Town, Batticaloa District, Eastern Province. Following the interrogation, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) recovered 1,000 detonators, over 300 gelnite sticks, eight liters of liquid gelnite, detonator cord, and approximately 500 rounds of assault rifle ammunition from a buried cache site in the area. **Lankaweb (6/27/19)**

Bangladesh

IED Events Total: 6 Detonation: 3 Found/Cleared: 1 Hoax: 0 Cache: 2
Casualties Total: 3 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 3 HN KIA: 0 HN WIA: 0

June 2019

IED Activity



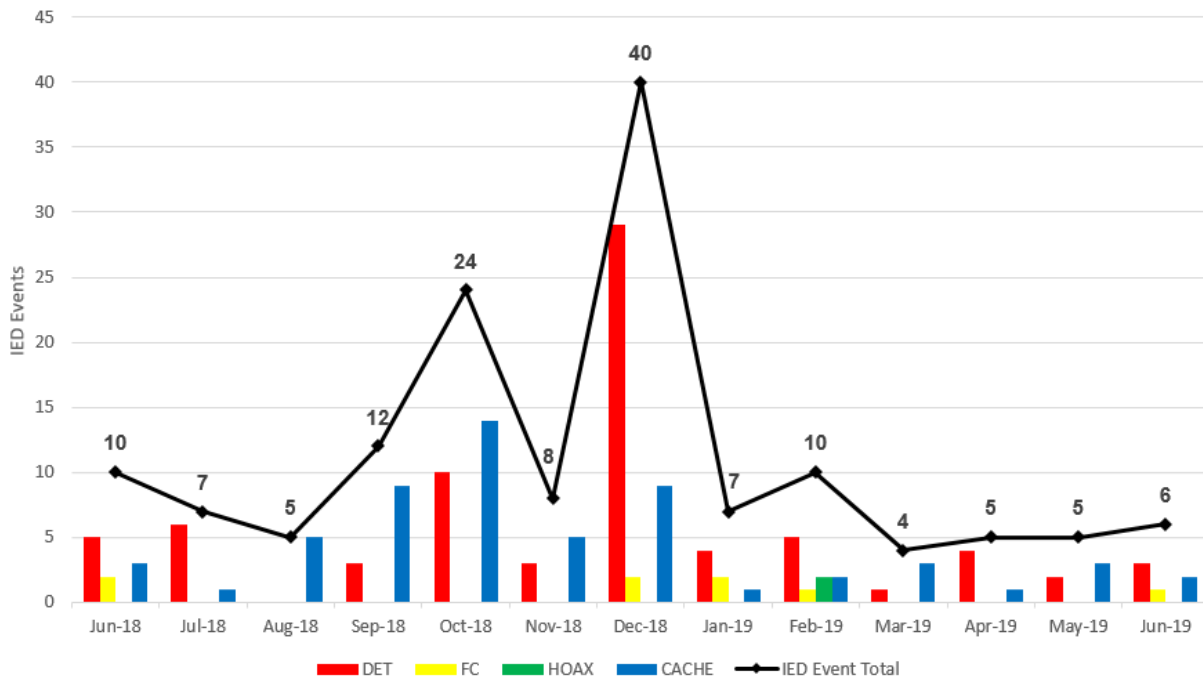
On 9 JUN, Border Guards in Bangladesh raided a house in Rajshahi Division and recovered 53 IEDs that perpetrators buried and concealed in cement bags. The house residents fled the scene before the police could arrest them. The house was located in a village close to the border with India. **Daily Star (6/11/19) New Age BD (6/9/19)**

On 24 and 25 JUN, activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led two days of protests over intra-party changes and new age-limit rules. On 24 JUN, protestors threw six IEDs, of which five detonated, injuring at least two political figures as they emerged from the BNP's Central Office building. Police found and cleared the sixth IED an hour after the protest. On 25 JUN, protestors threw two IEDs, which resulted in no injuries or damage. **Daily Sun (6/24/19) The Daily Star (6/25/19)**

On 30 JUN, the Rapid Action Battalion conducted raids on two villages in Rajshahi Division and recovered 24 IEDs along with two pistols, ammunition, magazines, and extremist literature. The RAB arrested five Ansar al Islam members from the two villages. **New Age BD (6/30/19)**

Authorities conducted the raids and cache recovery events in Rajshahi at a time when both Bangladesh and India are looking to thwart the Bangladesh-based Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) extremist group's use of the permissive border areas for hiding, operational planning, and IED construction and transport. These raids in Bangladesh, while not very large, places pressure on the IED suppliers and shipment middlemen, while on the Indian side of the border, recent JMB arrests pressures the group's operations cadre and leadership. Regarding the BNP student wing's political protests, IED usage is a prevalent method for political activists to create mayhem or to threaten political leaders. The typical IED used in these types of attacks is often crude and not very powerful.

Bangladesh IED Activity June 2018-June 2019



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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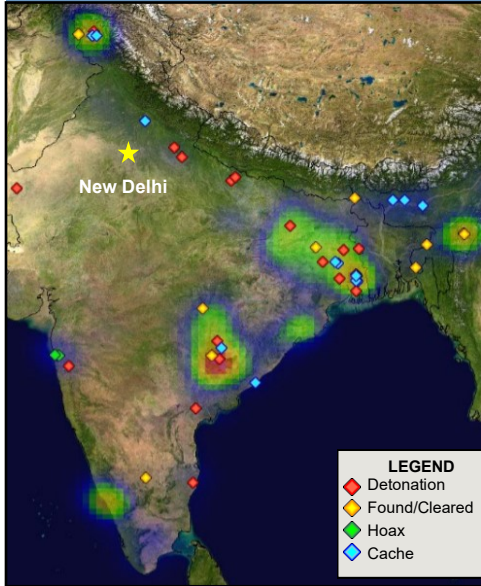
India

IED Events Total: 51 Detonation: 23 Found/Cleared: 12 Hoax: 2 Cache: 14

June 2019

Casualties Total: 37 CIV KIA: 10 CIV WIA: 18 HN KIA: 2 HN WIA: 7

IED Activity



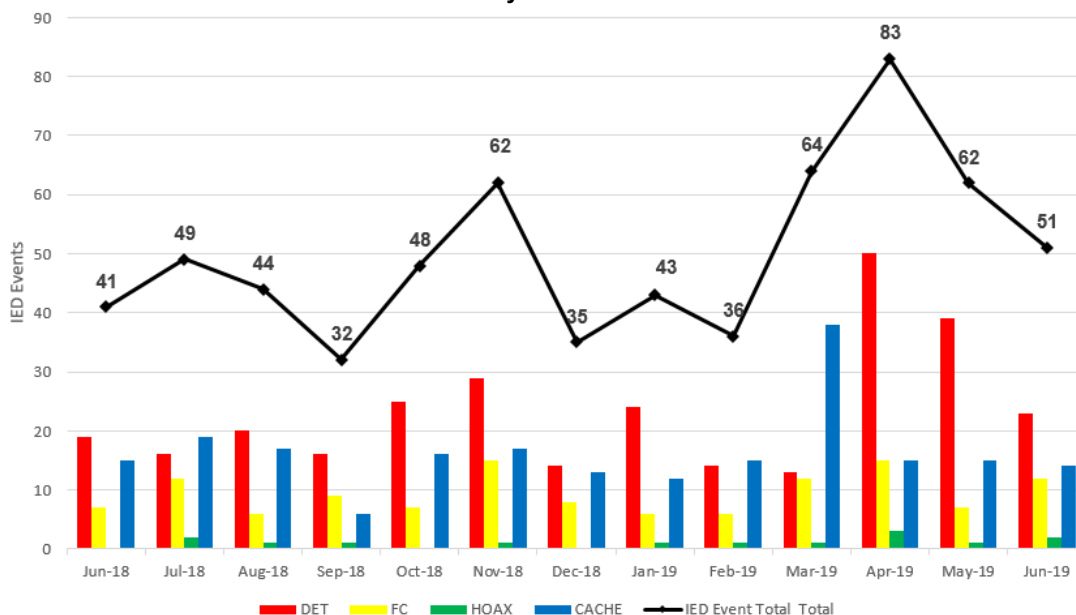
On 1 JUN, police seized a cache of explosives from a Maoist hideout in Gondia District, Maharashtra. The cache contained 10 kg of explosive powder, iron nails, glass pieces, electronic detonators, and wires. Maoists reportedly planned to use the explosives against security forces in Maharashtra. **New Indian Express (06/02/19)**

On 5 JUN, the Indian Railway Police Force in Mumbai recovered a hoax IED emplaced onboard a Shalimar Express train located under a seat after a cleaning crew discovered the device. Authorities identified one suspect in the event. The hoax IED consisted of five to seven plastic firecracker pipe cases resembling gelatin sticks (5-6 inches long), two small wires (around 7-8 inches long), and a small defused box battery. The device did not contain any explosives. **DNA India (06/05/19)**

On 17 JUN, a VBIED attack targeted an armored vehicle in a convoy in Pulwama District, Jammu and Kashmir, injuring seven Indian Army Special Forces troops and killing two. The device detonated when the armored patrol vehicle passed by the VBIED along the highway. **India Today (06/17/19), The Hindu (06/19/19)**

India experienced a decrease in IED activity this month following several months of increased attacks due to national elections. However, the level of violence in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) continues to escalate in this historically volatile region. The 17 JUN VBIED attack in Pulwama that injured seven and killed two CRFP troops as their up-armored 44 Rashtriya Rifles vehicle patrolled the region was likely an attempt to mirror the 14 FEB bombing that killed 40 CRPF. The increased frequency of IED attacks in J&K, rather than direct engagement with Indian military forces, is indicative of a committed militant effort to minimize their casualties and cause maximum damage to security forces. The trend toward IEDs is parallel to militant activity in the Naxal belts of India; IEDs are the cheapest and most effective way of inflicting damage. Increased episodes of remote controlled IEDs suggests that militant groups are employing more sophisticated tactics. Additionally, local youth, or home-grown terrorists, are conducting the majority of attacks following initial recruitment and radicalization.

India IED Activity June 2018-June 2019



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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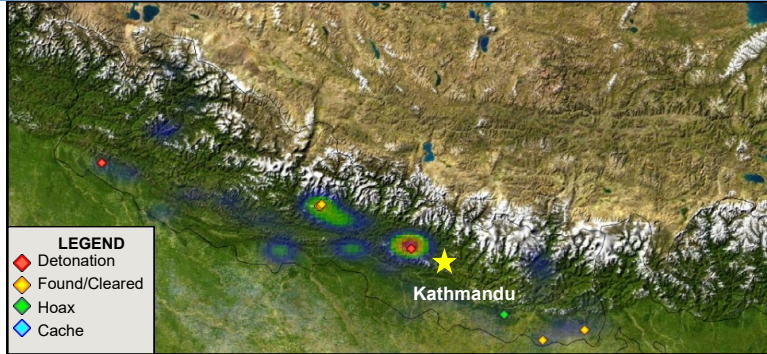
Nepal

IED Events Total: 10 Detonation: 2 Found/Cleared: 7 Hoax: 1 Cache: 0

Casualties Total: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 HN KIA: 0 HN WIA: 0

June 2019

IED Activity

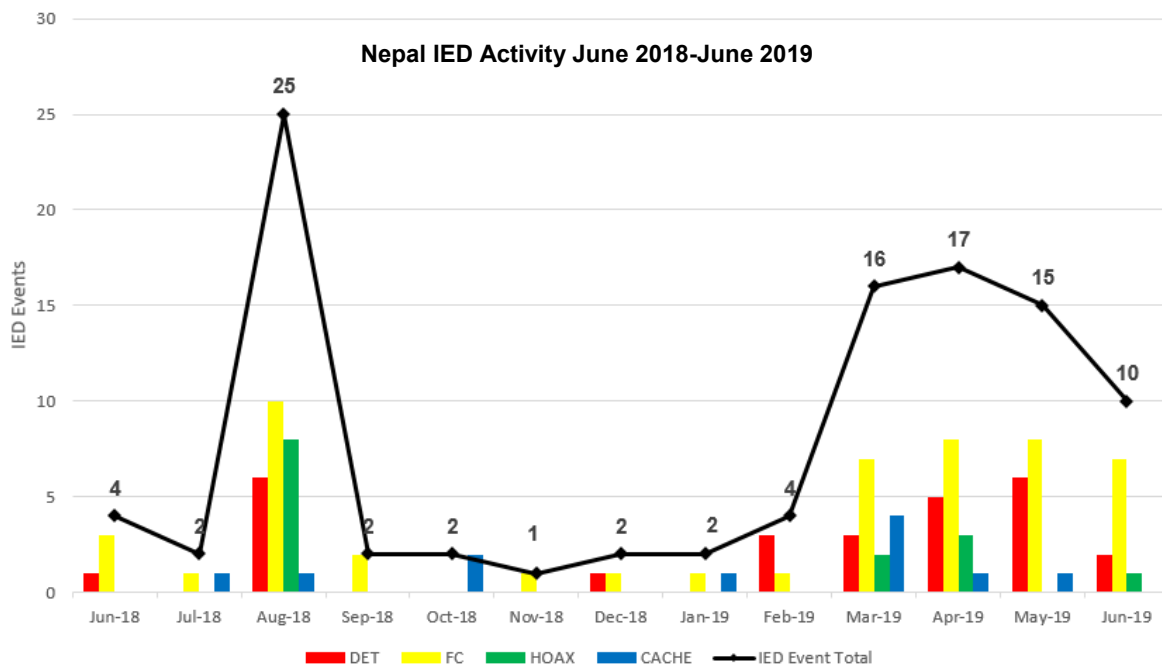


On 21 JUN, a bomb disposal unit found and cleared a hoax IED in Triyuga Municipality, Udayapur District, Province No. 1. Locals informed the police of a suspicious object wrapped inside a pink-colored bag at approximately 0630 local time. Upon further inspection of the object, authorities determined the device was a pressure cooker. While investigating the pressure cooker, the bomb disposal unit discovered pieces of cloth, wires, and tape inside the device. An investigation into the incident is ongoing. **The Himalayan Times (6/21/19)**

On 25 JUN, an IED detonated in the Municipality office of Gauriganga, Kailali District, Sudurpashchim Pradesh Province. A security guard informed the local police of a suspicious object after he noticed that an unidentified individual abandoned a bag in the municipality office. The IED detonated before the bomb disposal team reached the site; however, the explosion did not result in any casualties. **Insec Online (6/26/19)**

On 25 JUN, the Nepal Army found and cleared a pressure cooker IED in New Bus Park, Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Lalitpur District, Province No. 3. According to reporting, the pressure cooker IED was very powerful. Cadres of the Netra Bikram Chand led Communist Party of Nepal may have planted the IED. **Parijat Media (6/25/19)**

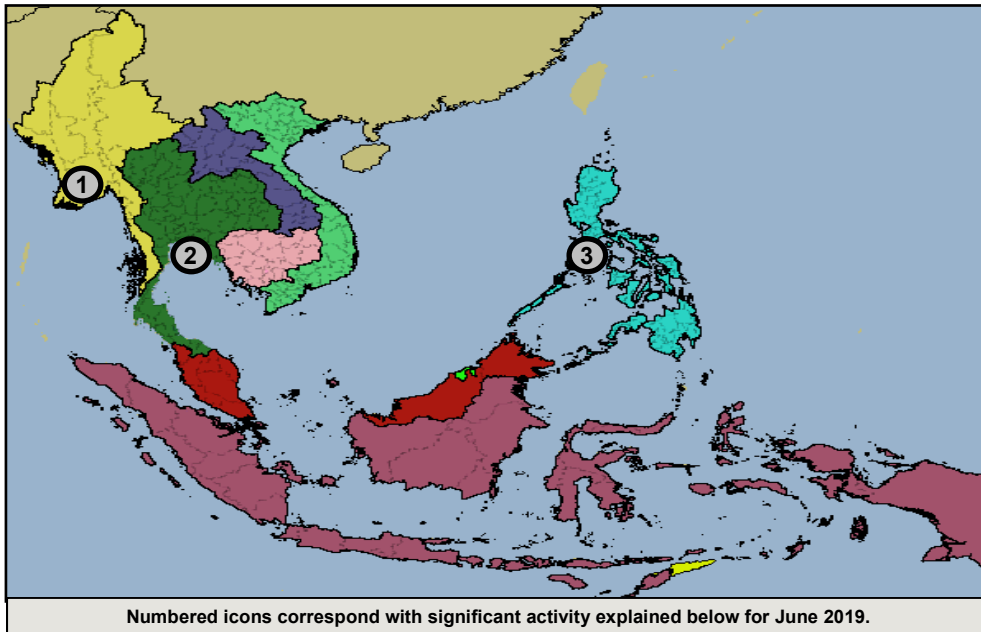
June IED activity remained consistent with the previous month. The majority of the events occurred during a two-day span as the Netra Bikram Chand's CPN-M implemented a nationwide strike on 25 JUN. This is the third month in a row that the CPN-M has called for nationwide strikes. According to reporting, the explosives used in these events are showing similar signs of increased lethality compared to last month's devices. Nepal will likely see the same level of IED activity in the coming months as the CPN-M continues to implement these strikes in either protest or retaliation against the police and the government.



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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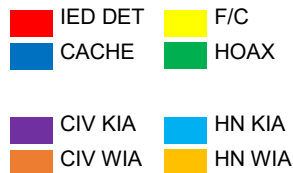
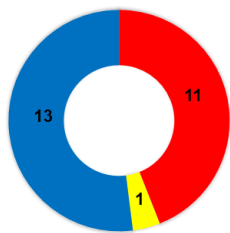
Southeast Asia Highlights



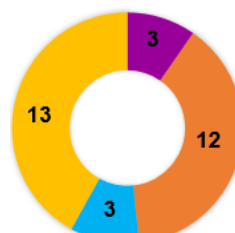
Southeast Asia June Executive Summary

IED activity decreased by 29% from the previous month (25 events versus 35 events) and IED-related casualties dropped by 67% (21 casualties versus 64 casualties). In the Philippines, IED activity decreased from May (11 events versus 16 events), however, a significant twin PBIED attack in Sulu Province on 28 JUN resulted in 28 casualties. In Thailand, IED events decreased from May (five events versus 11 events), and casualty rates decreased from 49 casualties last month to three casualties in June. In Indonesia, IED activity slightly increased from May (four events versus two events), although, there were no IED-related casualties (other than one suspect who wounded himself in a failed PBIED attack on 3 JUN in Central Java Province).

Southeast Asia IED Events
June 2019



Southeast Asia Casualties
June 2019



Southeast Asia June Significant Activity

- ① **Burma:** On 21 JUN, the Burmese military partially shut down telecommunications in Rakhine State and southern Chin State in response to the increasing attacks from the Arakan Army. The military will continue to permit the use of calls and texts; however, it disabled communications via social media mobile applications. The ministry's directive to suspend service will continue until "peace and stability are restored to the region." Ongoing criticism surrounding the shutdown has drawn attention to civilians caught in the conflict zone who require humanitarian aid. **UPI (6/23/19) Guardian (6/24/19)**
- ② **Thailand:** Officials from the regional Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC-4) are now requiring cellphone users to have their photograph taken when registering for a SIM card in Southern Thailand. Users have until October 2019 to register for a SIM card using their biometric data or their phone service will be disconnected. This new security measure is an effort to prevent insurgents from using mobile phones to execute IED attacks in the Deep South. Previously, users would register their phones by presenting ID cards; however, insurgents still utilized SIM cards registered to other individuals or would buy cards online or from neighboring countries. Critics of the security measure express concern over potential privacy infringements. **Benar News (6/25/19) Chiang Rai Times (1/30/18)**
- ③ **Philippines:** A Chinese Navy vessel collided with a Philippine fishing boat on 9 JUN near Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea). The 22 Filipino fishermen onboard claimed that the Chinese vessel deliberately sank their boat and then departed the location immediately. A Vietnamese vessel in the vicinity rescued the stranded crewmembers, who reported the case to authorities. The incident sparked a dispute between the two countries and contributed to the ongoing debate regarding ownership of the nearby island chains and the surrounding resources. President Duterte considered the situation a "maritime incident that should not be overblown." This is in contrast to statements from Secretary of Defense Lorenzana, who called for an investigation, an apology, and the provision of compensation to the fishermen. **Rappler (6/15/19) New York Times (6/13/19) Rappler (6/19/19)**

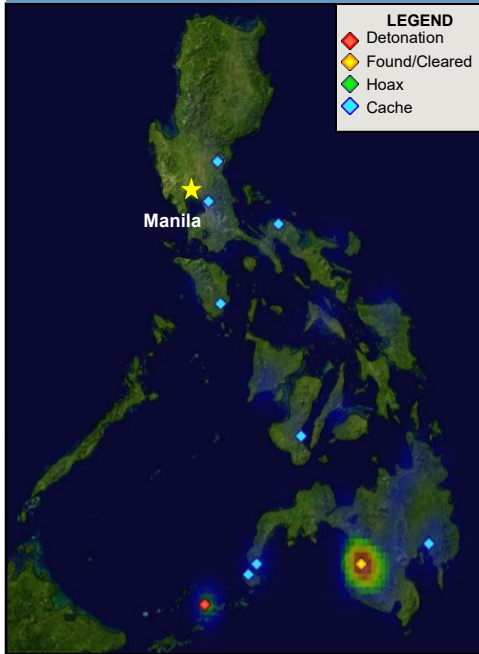
Philippines

IED Events Total: 11 Detonation: 2 Found/Cleared: 1 Hoax: 0 Cache: 8

Casualties Total: 28 CIV KIA: 3 CIV WIA: 10 HN KIA: 3 HN WIA: 12

June 2019

IED Activity



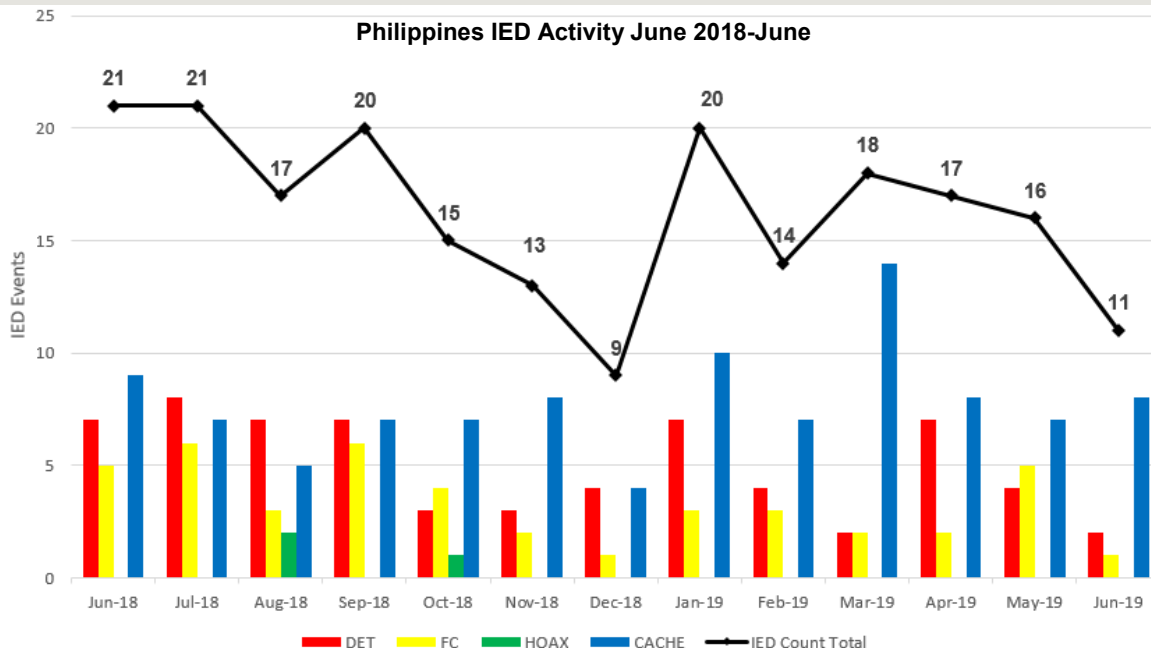
On 5 JUN, local police detained nine fisherman for possession of various IED components used for blast fishing in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte, Bicol, Luzon. The cache contained five kilos of ammonium nitrate, three blasting caps, a compressor, and a hose.

Inquirer (6/6/19)

On 13 JUN, a concerned citizen alerted military personnel to the presence of New People's Army (NPA) militants, which resulted in an IED cache discovery and a small arms exchange between the Philippine Army and the NPA militants. The resulting firefight against approximately 40 NPA militants resulted in three NPA casualties and one wounded Philippine Army soldier. The cache contained two IEDs, IED switches, three blasting caps, assorted ammunition, three M16 rifles, one AK-47, one .45 caliber rifle with two magazines, and one grenade launcher tube. **Manila Times (6/13/19)**

On 26 JUN, government forces seized IED components from a van at a checkpoint in Talipan, Pagilao, Quezon, Bicol, Luzon. Approximately one hour earlier, in the same town, police, and military forces confiscated an IED cache containing 150 kilos of ammonium nitrate (AN). The van contained 300 pieces of improvised blasting caps and 2,250 kilos of AN. Police detained the suspect, Mark Deligent, for illegal possession of AN, although his intentions for the large AN cache remains unclear. **Inquirer (6/27/19)**

Throughout the first three weeks of June, IED activity remained relatively low and included small IED caches perpetrated by the New People's Army (NPA). It is likely that IED activity as a whole declined early in the month due to multiple ongoing efforts to degrade communist and Islamist threats across the islands. President Duterte increased the military presence in Sulu Province prior to and after the PBIED event to eradicate the remaining Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) rebels and to bring law and order back to the island. Additionally, Duterte made multiple public statements about his desire to end all encounters with the NPA militants through aggressive military operations. Despite requests from the Mayor of Davao, Sarah Duterte, for an early release from martial law over the city, it does not seem likely that the military presence is will decrease, particularly after the recent PBIED attack in Jolo on 28 JUN (see **Incident Highlight**).



IED

reporting

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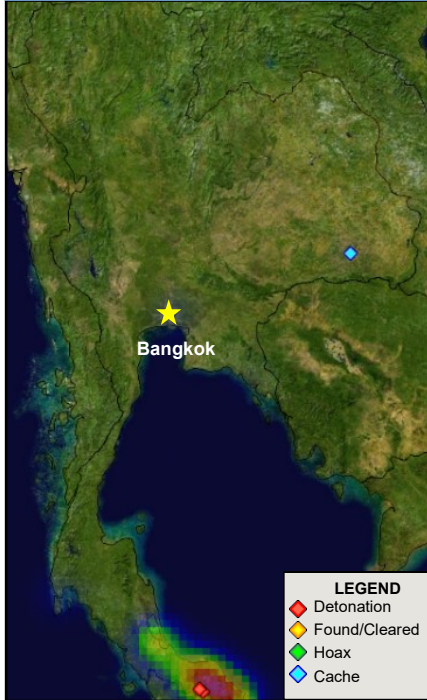
Thailand

IED Events Total: 5 Detonation: 4 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 0 Cache: 1

June 2019

Casualties Total: 3 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 2 HN KIA: 0 HN WIA: 1

IED Activity



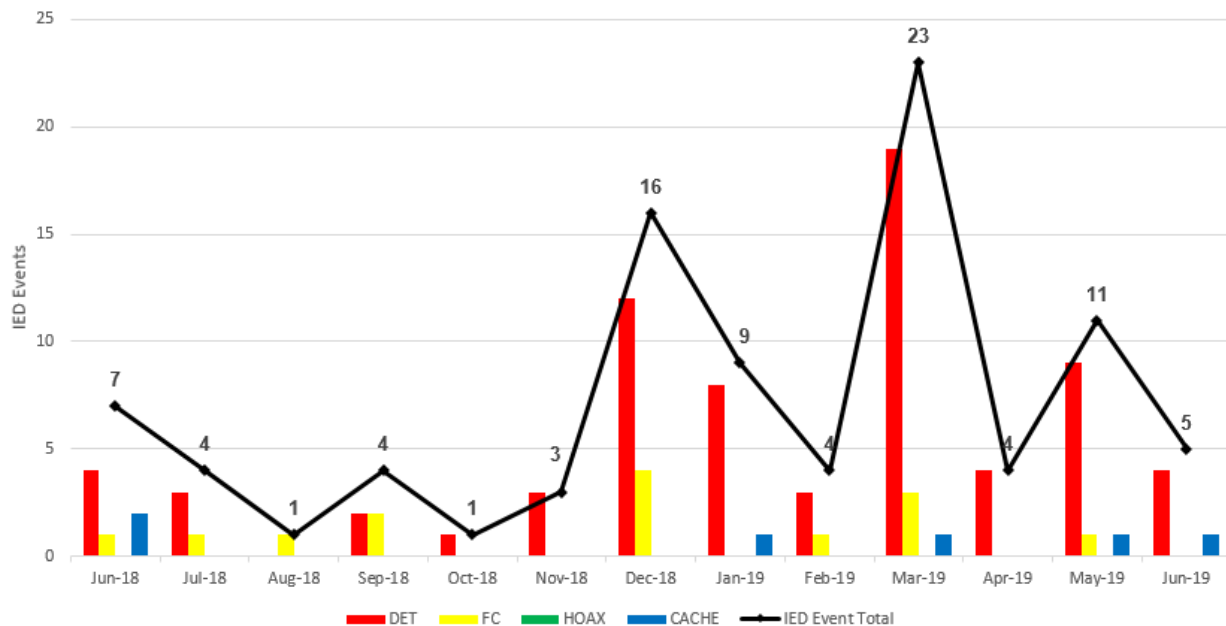
On 1 JUN, two teenagers on a motorcycle threw a 1kg pipe bomb at a police booth near the Krungthai Bank in Bannang Sata, Yala, resulting in one injury. **Bangkok Post (6/1/19)**

On 2 JUN, in Waeng, Narathiwat, a 5kg timed IED detonated 300 meters from an army base, injuring one civilian. After investigating the scene, Bukit Tar Police found two other devices that detonated. **Malaysiakini (6/3/19)**

On 6 JUN, officials recovered a cache in an irrigation canal in Kukhan, Si Sa Ket. The cache contained 27 rocket-propelled grenades, 24 rounds of ammunition for M79 grenade launchers, 700 assault rifle rounds, and 48 detonation caps. **Bangkok Post (6/12/19) Nation (6/10/19) Nation (6/7/19)**

IED activity in June was lower than in May. The majority of attacks were consistent with Southern Thai Insurgency TTPs. The cache recovery on 6 JUN was a unique event, as forensic officials revealed that perpetrators used the weapons more than 50 times during the political unrest occurring between 2010 and 2014. The last large-scale cache event related to the 2014 coup occurred on 29 NOV 2017 in a rice field in Bang Name Prieo, Chachoengsao. The cache contained seven PVC pipe bombs, 30 hand grenades, several rounds of ammunition, and other explosive materials. Thailand will likely experience the same level of IED activity in the coming months as insurgents continue to create unrest in the Deep South.

Thailand IED Activity June 2018-June 2019



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

[Return to first page](#)

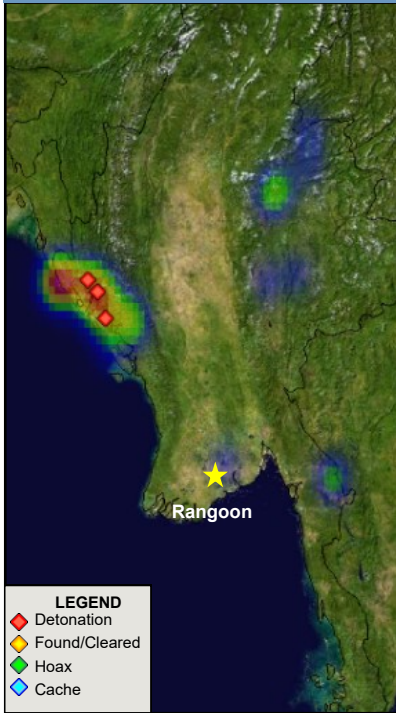
Burma

IED Events Total: 5 Detonation: 4 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 0 Cache: 1

June 2019

Casualties Total: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 HN KIA: 0 HN WIA: 0

IED Activity

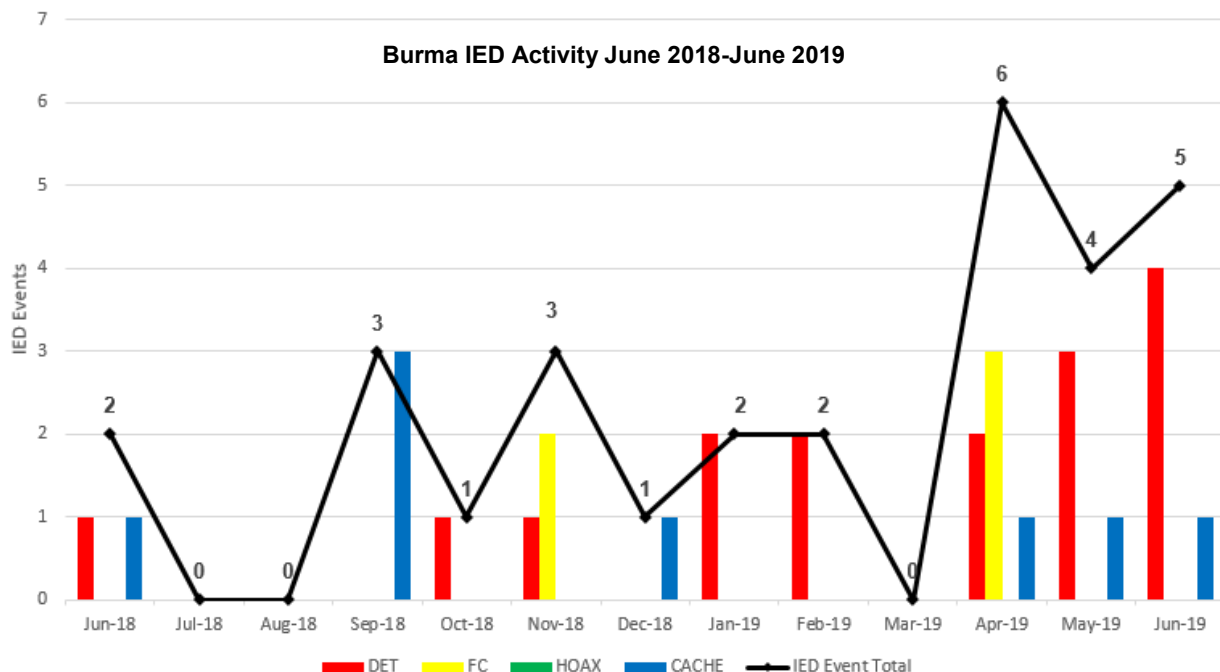


On 4 JUN, Arakan Army (AA) militants detonated two IEDs; one near the Kyarchantaung Bridge at mile post 69/4 and the other between mileposts 62/3 and 62/4 on Yagnon-Sittwe Road, Myebon, Rakhine. Four hours later, five IEDs detonated between mile posts 62/3 and 62/4, located between Michaungtat and Taungchay villages in Myebon. The IEDs damaged roads and bridges in the area, but the events did not result in any casualties. **GNLM (6/5/19)**

On 21 JUN, after receiving a tip, security forces recovered a cache near a monastery in Pauktawpyin village, Rakhine perpetrated by the AA. The cache contained homemade guns, ammunition, improvised explosive devices and related components, uniforms, military materials, World Food Program branded aid, food, and medicine. **UEHRD (6/23/19)**

On 25 JUN, AA militants reportedly detonated three RCIEDs targeting a convoy of six trucks in Kyautaw Township, Rakhine. The International Committee of the Red Cross contracted the trucks to deliver aid supplies to the conflict zone. After detonating the devices, the militants fired at the lead vehicle. The detonations caused some damage to the lead vehicle but did not result in any known casualties. **Irrawaddy (6/28/19) RFA (6/28/19) UEHRD (6/29/19)**

The frequency of IED events in Burma remains consistent, as clashes between the Burmese Army (Tatmadaw) and AA continue in the conflict-torn Rakhine state. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the clashes have displaced 30,000 people in the last six months. Most notable this month was the 25 JUN detonation targeting a Red Cross contracted convoy. Based on historical norms, the AA does not typically target civilians. However, in February 2019, the AA claimed responsibility for attacking two civilian buses after learning that the Tatmadaw used them to transport military personnel.



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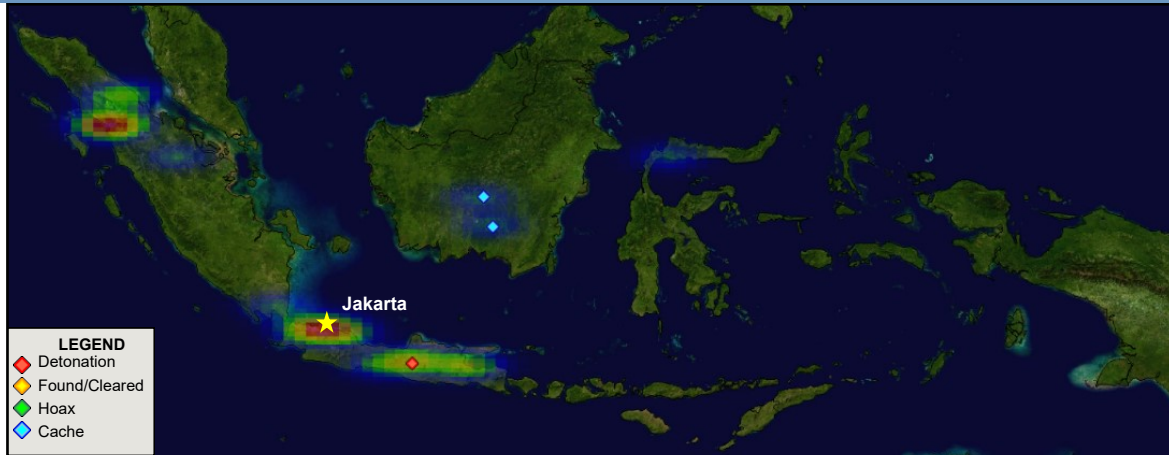
[Return to first page](#)

Indonesia

IED Events Total: 4 Detonation: 1 Found/Cleared: 0 Hoax: 0 Cache: 3
 Casualties Total: 0 CIV KIA: 0 CIV WIA: 0 HN KIA: 0 HN WIA: 0

June 2019

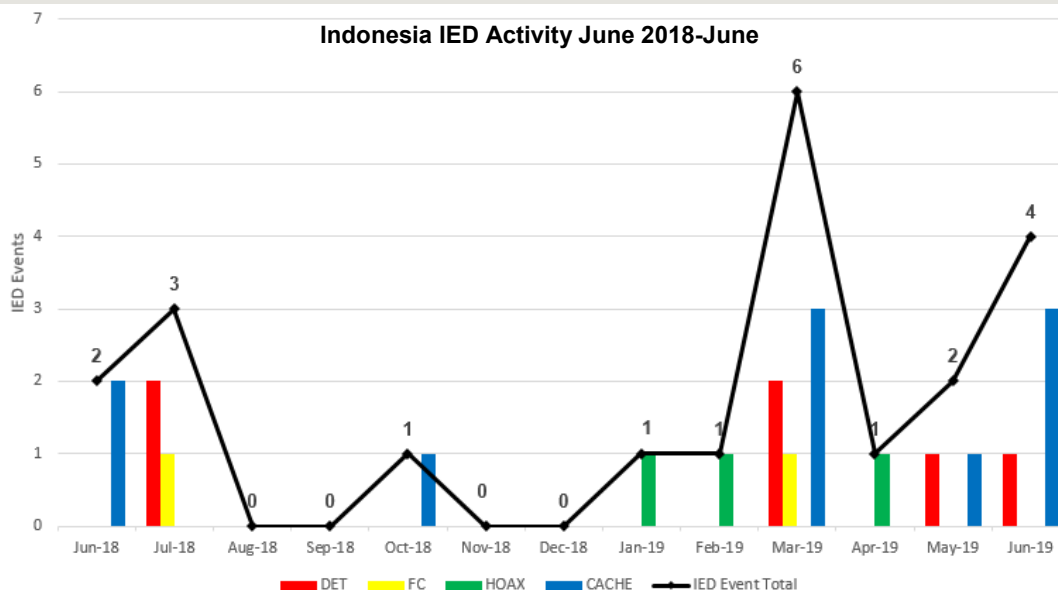
IED Activity



On 3 JUN, a suicide bomber detonated a PBIED near a police station in Kartosuro, Sukoharjo, Central Java resulting in injuries to himself only. The following day, police raided the bomber's home and recovered an IED cache in in Wirogunan, Sukoharjo. The cache contained sulfur, wires, a cellphone, a switch, and aluminum foil. **Jakarta Post (6/4/19) Jakarta Post (6/10/19)**

On 11 JUN, police recovered two IED caches after conducting multiple raids of Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) cells in Palangkraya City and Gunung Mas Regency, Central Kalimantan. The caches contained unspecified IED components. Police detained 15 suspects in Palangkraaya and 19 in Gunung Mas. Among those detained is the third wife of Abu Hamzah Hussain, the JAD member whose wife detonated a bomb and killed herself and her two children in Sibolga, North Sumatra, in March. Police allege the 34 suspects were plotting to carry out a suicide bombing attack in Jakarta. **Jakarta Globe (6/28/19)**

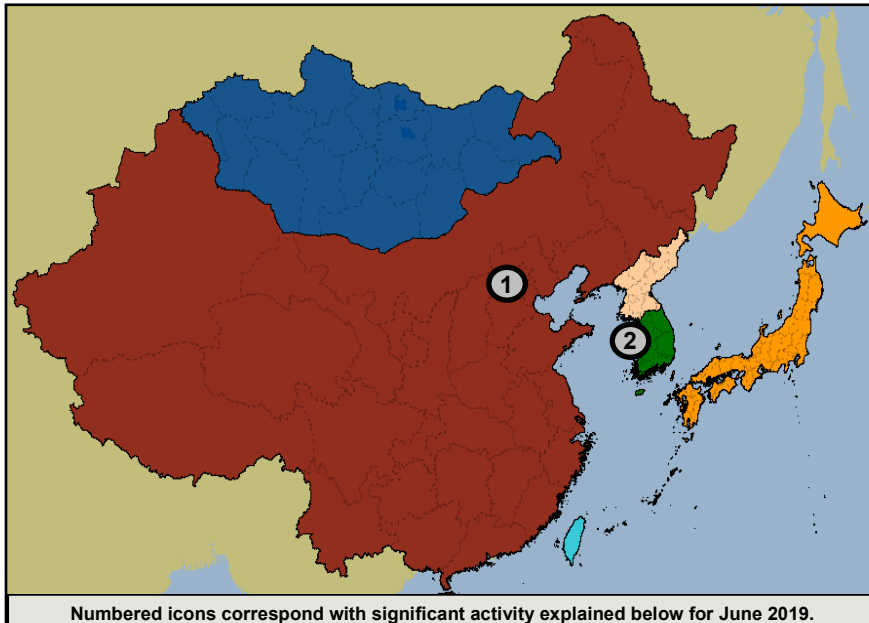
IED activity remains relatively unchanged in Indonesia. Although JAD remains the predominant terror threat in Indonesia, the 3 JUN failed suicide bombing is an interesting case study. Rofik Asharudin, the failed suicide bomber, was a self-radicalized ISIS sympathizer. As he did not demonstrate any overt extremist behavior, he did not emerge as a subject of interest for police and security forces. Although he was strictly not a "lone-wolf" (police detained his two accomplices on 9 JUN), authorities could not determine if the perpetrators possessed any direct connection to local terror organizations like JAD. Additionally, they reportedly taught themselves how to construct the PBIED from watching online videos. While many are rightly concerned with the possibility of Indonesian militants returning from Syria and Iraq to inspire and train other would-be extremists, the 3 JUN event serves as a reminder that ISIS's virtual presence is pernicious threat.



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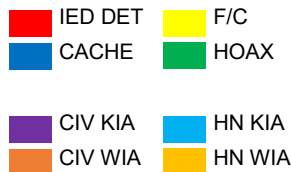
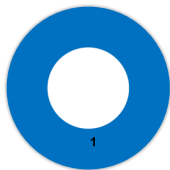
Northeast Asia Highlights



Northeast Asia June Executive Summary

IED activity remained low in Northeast Asia, with one reported IED event; a 2 JUN IED cache event in Shenyang City, China.

Northeast Asia IED Events June 2019



Northeast Asia Casualties June 2019



Northeast Asia June Significant Activity

- ① **China:** In late JUN, the Chinese government donated mine detectors, demining personal protective equipment, exploding initiators, vans, and motorcycles to aid the Cambodian government's on-going domestic de-mining and UXO operations. Collaboration with select countries in countering explosives, IEDs, and UXOs is a security cooperation focus area for the PRC. China conducted a similar equipment donation in the spring of 2019 to Belarus, focused on explosives detection equipment for border security. China also participated in the field portion of the multinational exercise KHAAN QUEST 2019 in Mongolia, with training focused on counter-IED tactics. Beijing is likely to maintain countering explosives, IEDs, and UXOs as a priority area for international engagement. **Xinhua (6/25/19)**
- ① **China:** On 02 JUN, Chinese security officers discovered multiple IED caches throughout Liaoning Province. In total, the caches contained one explosive device, 11kg of explosives (unknown type), 468 blasting caps, 236 illegal fireworks, 65 meters of detonation cord, and 72 detonators. In Dadong District, officers arrested an unidentified male for illegally manufacturing explosive devices and providing the devices to a second party to employ. Officials accused the suspect of disassembling fireworks and collecting the gunpowder to use in explosive devices. Officials also revealed that security officers identified 780 individuals illegally sharing explosives education and reprimanded 392 businesses for selling fireworks year-round. **Xinhua**
- ② **South Korea:** On 25 JUN, a 39-year-old man rammed his sedan into the gate of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. Police found a box of butane gas canisters in the trunk of the car; however, the intent of the canisters remains unknown. The driver appeared mentally unstable; allegedly telling police he was a prosecutor handling public security. In June 2018, a South Korean government official also rammed the gate of the US embassy, in an effort to request US asylum **Chosun Media (6/26/19)**

Appendix A

South Asia

Bangladesh		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	9	1	0	77	87
	Year	227	27	2	343	599
Event Count	Month	3	1	0	2	6
	Year	75	8	2	58	143

India		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	118	16	2	97	233
	Year	485	516	16	1244	2261
Event Count	Month	23	12	2	14	51
	Year	302	122	14	212	650

Nepal		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	8	1	0	11
	Year	51	58	22	10	141
Event Count	Month	2	7	1	0	10
	Year	27	50	14	11	102

Sri Lanka		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	16	1	1	34	52
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	1	0
	Year	11	1	1	19	32

Southeast Asia

Philippines		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	2	1	0	8	11
	Year	68	91	3	131	293
Event Count	Month	2	1	0	8	11
	Year	65	43	3	101	212

Thailand		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	5	0	0	0	5
	Year	86	39	0	42	167
Event Count	Month	4	0	0	1	5
	Year	72	14	0	6	92

Burma		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	12	0	0	2	14
	Year	31	9	0	8	48
Event Count	Month	4	0	0	1	5
	Year	17	5	0	8	30

Indonesia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	7	4	3	27	41
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	3	4
	Year	6	2	3	10	21

Appendix A

Southeast Asia Cont.

Malaysia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	0	0	5	13
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	3	0	0	3	6

Northeast Asia

China		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	6	0	1	0	7
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	1	1
	Year	6	0	1	2	9

South Korea		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	1	0	1
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	1	0	1

Taiwan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	1	0	0	1	2

IED Calendar

The IED calendar was established to help our audience maintain awareness of events, such as anniversaries of major attacks, or political, religious or cultural events that often coincide (or can potentially coincide) with a spike in IED events.

4 JUN (WW): Ramadan Ends

9 JUN (MMR): Anniversary of Ceasefire of KIA

12 JUN (PHL): Philippine Independence Day from Spain

9-15 JUN (IND): Jan Pituri Week

1 JUL (BGD): Anniversary of the Holy Artisan Bakery Attack

13 JUL (IDN): Anniversary of Marriott-Ritz bombing

28 JUL—3 AUG (IND): Martyr's Weeks

8 AUG 1998 (MMR): 8888 Uprising

14 AUG 1947 (IND): Naga Independence Day

15 AUG 1949 (IND): Independence Day

23 AUG 2003 (IND): Mumbai Attack - Gateway of India

31 AUG 1957 (MYS/THA): Hari Merdeka Malaysian Independence Day/Bersatu Foundation Day (Southern Thailand)

About the APCFC

The Asia-Pacific C-IED Fusion Center is the premier center for irregular warfare analysis in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The center develops and synchronizes C-IED and EOD programs and regional engagements. The center resources USARAPC C-IED training to ensure U.S., Allied, and Partner Nations survivability.



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	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
June 2019	26	27	28 IND	29 NPL	30	31	1
	2	3	4 WW	5	6	7	8
	9 IND MMR	10 IND	11 IND	12 IND PHL	13 IND	14 IND	15 IND
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	1 BGN	2	3	4	5	6
July 2019	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 IDN
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28 IND	29 IND	30 IND	31 IND	1 IND	2 IND	3 IND
August 2019	4	5	6	7	8 MMR	9	10
	11	12	13	14 IND	15 IND	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23 IND	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31 MYS THA

IND – India IDN – Indonesia MMR – Burma MYS – Malaysia NPL – Nepal PHL – Philippines
THA – Thailand WW – Worldwide

Common Terms and Acronyms

AN – Ammonium Nitrate	PPIED – Pressure Plate IED
ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil	QRF – Quick Response Force
ARMM – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	RCIED – Radio Controlled IED
CIV – Civilian	RCP – Route Clearance Patrols
CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear	RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
COIN – Counter-insurgency	SA – South Asia
CWIED – Command Wire IED	SAF – Small Arms Fire
DTMF – Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency	SEA – Southeast Asia
EFP – Explosively Formed Projectile	SVBIED – Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal	TATP – Triacetone Triperoxide
F/C – Found & Cleared	TNT – Trinitrotoluene (C ₇ H ₅ N ₃ O ₆)
HME – Homemade Explosives	TTP – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
HN – Host Nation (Police, Military, Government)	UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
IDF – Indirect Fire	VBIED – Vehicle Borne IED
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons	VEO – Violent Extremist Organization
IED – Improvised Explosive Device	VOIED – Victim Operated IED
IrW – Irregular Warfare	WIA – Wounded in Action
KFR – Kidnap for Ransom	
KIA – Killed in Action	
LOC – Line of Communication	
LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas	
MSR – Main Supply Routes	
NFI – No Further Information	
NSTR – Nothing Significant To Report	
PBA – Post Blast Analysis	
PBIED – Personnel Borne (Suicide Bomb) IED	
PCB – Printed Circuit Board	
PN – Partner Nation	

Governments, Groups and Organizations

South Asia

India

BSF – Border Security Forces
 CPI-M – Communist Party of India (Maoist)
 CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
 CRPF – Central Reserve Police Force
 HM – Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
 IM – Indian Mujahideen
 JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed
 ULFA – United Liberation Front of Assam

Nepal

JTMM – Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha

Bangladesh

BNP – Bangladesh National Party
 HUJI-B – Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami Bangladesh
 JIB – Jemaat-e-Islami Bangladesh
 JMB – Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
 JMJB – Jama'atul Muslim Janta Bangladesh
 RAB – Rapid Action Battalion

Sri Lanka

JMI – Jamathei Millathu Ibraheem
 NTJ – National Thowheed Jama'ath

Southeast Asia

Burma

AA - Arakan Army
 ARSA—Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
 KIA – Kachin Independence Army
 UWSA – United Wa State Army

Thailand

BRN-C – Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate
 RKK – Runda Kumpulan Kecil

Philippines

ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group
 BIFF – Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
 CPP – Communist Party of the Philippines
 MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front
 NPA – New People's Army
 PNP – Philippine National Police

Indonesia

JAD – Jamaah Ansharut Daulah
 JAT – Jamaah Ansharout Tauhid
 JI – Jamaah Islamiya
 POLRI – Indonesian National Police

Other Groups/Organizations

ISI – Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan)
 ISIS – Islamic State of Iraq ash Sham
 LeT – Lashkar-e Tayyiba